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Date: 2/22/2006 11:42 AM **Pages (including cover page):** 24
To: USPTO, Examiner Saeed **Fax:** 571-273-8300
From: Coe F. Miles (Customer No.: 29855) **Client/Matter #:** 149-0105US
Serial No.: 10/618,500 **Filing Date:** July 11, 2003
Re: Reply to Office Action dated 25 January 2006

Please find attached the following:

1. Transmittal Letter (1 page); and
2. Reply to Office Action dated 25 January 2006 (22 pages).

If there is a problem with this transmission, please call (832) 446-2418.

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PTC/SB/21 (09-04)

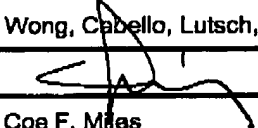
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

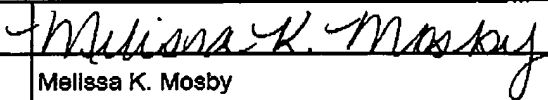
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/618,500
	Filing Date	July 11, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Christopher Blalcher
	Art Unit	2166
	Examiner Name	Usmaan Saeed
	Attorney Docket Number	149-0105US
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		24

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Facsimile Cover Sheet.
Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	Wong, Cabello, Lutsch, Rutherford & Bruccoleri, LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Coe F. Miles		
Date	February 22, 2006	Reg. No.	38,559

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.	
Signature	
Typed or printed name	Melissa K. Mosby
Date	February 22, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Title : Sorting Objects Having Variable Length Keys
Inventor : Christopher Y. Blalcher
Serial No : 10/618,500 § Examiner : Usmaan Saeed
Filed : 11 July 2003 § Phone : 571-272-4046
Docket : 149-0105US § Art Unit : 2166
Customer : 29855

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. 1.8)

This paper is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via Facsimile. This paper is being transmitted to (571) 273-8300 on February 22, 2006.

Melissa K. Mosby
Melissa K. Mosby

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 25 JANUARY 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated 25 January 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this Reply.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this Reply.

Remarks and Arguments begin on page 14 of this Reply.